

Aggies of the Month

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Wade Hawkinson is the Aggie of the Month for January.

lege's Agronomy team, Hawkinson competed in a national competition at Modesto, California, in 2011 and will compete with the team in Coffeyville, Kansas, in the spring.

Hawkinson also serves as a resident assistant and student ambassador, reflecting his willingness to assume additional campus responsibilities.

"Wade's work ethic and enthusiasm is everything an instructor hopes for in a student. It is clear that he is excited to be a part of NCTA's educational experience and campus life, said Dr. Brad Ramsdale, Assistant Professor of Agriculture Production Systems. After graduation, Hawkinson plans to farm and work as a crop consultant.

collegeproblems #903
realizing you won't graduate on time.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January**
- 28 NCTA and Purina Feeds Feeding and Fitting Clinic at 8:00 a.m.
 - 28 4-H Early Market Beef Weigh-In at 9:00 a.m.
 - 30 Frontier County 4-H Livestock Judging Practice
- February**
- 2 Student Senate meeting at Noon - Ag Hall Room 1
 - 7 Medicine Creek 4-H Club Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
 - 8 FFA District Career Development Skills Contest at 8:00 a.m.
 - 9 Valentine's Dance at 9:00 p.m.
 - 10 Frontier County 4-H Livestock Judging Practice at 6:00 p.m.
 - 11 IHSA Schooling Stock Seat Show at 7:00 a.m.
 - 14 Husker Ag Smarts at 8:00 a.m.
 - 15 May degree applications due (also due: applications for August graduates participating in May ceremony)
 - 17 Frontier County 4-H Livestock Judging Practice
 - 17 Last day to drop first 8-week course.

To add an event contact Eric Reed at ereed2@unl.edu

Things I Think

By Kevin Martin, *Guest Writer*

- Less than 30% of those taking the ACT are academically ready for college. Ouch.
- We will get a 12 inch plus snow storm in February.
- My coffee addiction is getting ridiculous.
- Estimates show only 10% of college students actually strive for excellence. Sad.
- Trying to replace a totaled car with insurance money is basically impossible.
- Why would you want a finger monkey?
- How do you forget to bring your shoes to a basketball game?
- It's time to find help when you start hiding from everyone and everything.
- Whatever you think you need to get done, do it right now.
- .44 Smith and Wesson and a dozen cans of pop = stress relief.



ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up

Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

AGGIE UP!

The "Finally Out" Edition



Facebook.com/AggieUp

December and January Aggies of the Month Selected

Inside this Issue:

- Aggies of the Month
- Are Ag Colleges A Joke?
- Aggies Speak Out! (about after-college job plans)
- College Problems
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- Calendar of Events

Aggie Up! Staff:

- Aaron Couch, Editor/ Photographer
- Eric Reed, Faculty Advisor

See staff for available positions!

Guest Writers:

- Kevin Martin

The December 2011 and January 2012 Aggies of the Month are Amelia DeJong of Lake in the Hills, Ill., and Wade Hawkinson of Hastings, Neb.

DeJong was named Aggie of the Month in December. She is a Veterinary Technology major with a minor in Agriculture Production Systems (equine emphasis). She is also secretary of Student Technicians of the Veterinary Medical Association (STVMA) Club and works as a tutor and part-time aid in the college's Admissions office. DeJong says that since there are fewer opportunities in Illinois for large animal work in a mixed-veterinary practice she plans to stay in Nebraska when she graduates in May.

Scott Mickelsen, NCTA Associate Dean, said, "We have called on Amelia to help with student tours and special tours of the new Vet Tech Facility, and she has always been very dependable and willing."

Stephanie Nichols, former Admissions Coordinator, added, "She is always willing to help and does it with a big smile. People actually ask for Amelia to give their tour. What a wonderful asset to the Vet Tech department; she is one that veterinarians will fight over to be an employee."

Wade Hawkinson was named the Ne-



Amelia DeJong was the Aggie of the Month in December.

braska College of Technical Agriculture's Aggie of the Month for January.

Instructors describe Hawkinson as a model or excellent student: consistent, and with a strong desire to learn the subject matter. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and the NCTA Farm Bureau Club. As a member of the col-

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Are Ag Colleges a Joke?

Opinion by Aaron Couch, *Editor*

The recent uproar of many agricultural colleges has been fixated on an article on Yahoo titled "College Majors That Are Useless". The article listed five college majors that the author felt weren't good fields to go into with the current number of jobs available. Listed number one was Agriculture, specifically agricultural managers. Number two and three were Fashion and Theater, mainly for their highly competitive nature. Listed number four was Animal Science and number five Horticulture.

Now I'm not sure if there were other colleges with non-agricultural-related majors that responded with offense, but it seemed like this article struck a nerve for many Agricultural colleges in the Midwest and in one aspect rightfully so, in another aspect, they may have reacted too quickly. NCTA instructor, Jeff Nielsen's Critical Thinking class discussed the outcomes and looked at both sides of the story. On one side, this article could really impact colleges that specialize in some of these areas. Focusing on agriculture and animal science, let's use NCTA as an example. This article lists three of four majors available here at NCTA: Agriculture, Animal Science and Horticulture, so why shouldn't we be upset about this? My first reaction was "How could he say we don't need agriculture, animal science or horticulture?" However on the other side, after rereading the points made, it was not saying that these fields weren't important, but that they might not look as promising as they appear to be.

There are a lot of considerations to take when reading this. NCTA staff member Kevin Martin shared a quote from a large Southwest Nebraska farmer and rancher:

"These 20 year olds need to realize that making money in ag isn't as easy as it seems right now. 10 years from now, they better know what's going on. When the bottom falls out, and it will fall out again, the banker isn't going to be buying them machinery and pickups. The banker is going to want to take their house."

In no way is this farmer criticizing agriculture here. Maybe this was the point the author of the Yahoo article was trying to make about agriculture. That it's going to be harder in the future due to more technology and higher demands from both the bank and the economy and if you're not willing for that, you might want to reconsider the career.

The first thing I noticed, however, was the title of the article: "College Majors That Are Useless". From a journalism and blogging prospective, I understand the reason you want a title that reaches out and pulls in your audience, which it certainly did. However, I don't feel using

YAHOO! EDUCATION

'useless' in the title or referring to any college major as 'useless' is appropriate. We are told all our lives to follow our dreams and passion no matter what, yet those same people often conflict themselves saying their an "adult" in the "real world" and what you really should pursue are careers that can support yourself and make something of your life. As if following your dream or passion is not that. It seems to me these adults that tell us these things have merely lost their vision of happiness. If owning a farm or planting trees or working with animals or acting or designing clothing make you happy, go for it and don't let things like this hold you back.

The author may very well have some good points here, but to me the bottom line isn't that he's slamming these fields or industries. Honestly, I'm sure he realizes how important each of these are. The real bottom line is the fact that he is calling these degrees useless. Granted, there may be better majors to pursue, but if he wanted to have a positive affect on college students, he should have written an article focusing on educating us about degrees and majors we might want to reconsider or be aware of their drawbacks, not outright calling them useless. To my surprise when I searched "useless college majors," I was overwhelmed with the amount of articles and links with that title. I don't believe that is right. Don't let negative comments about your goals and dreams manipulate you to change your mind. Pursue them. And if you decide that a particular career or major isn't for you, then you make that decision — don't let anyone else, especially a blog post, decide that for you.

Why Agriculture, Animal Science and Horticulture Are Valuable Degrees

- Ag jobs expected to increase for those managing large farms or growing for niche markets.
- Current farmer retirement age greater than 55.
- Horticulture includes everything from growing fruits and vegetables to turfgrass for sports fields.
- Animal science careers include veterinary medicine, public health, biology, pharmaceutical, food safety and finance and sales fields.
- Animal science majors can work in everything from sales to zookeeping.

Aggies Speak Out!

According to the Bureau of Labor, the unemployment rate is still at 8.5%.

What are your plans to get a job after graduation?

Laura Welch, Grand Island, Neb.

I plan to graduate in 2013 and then work in a small animal clinic in either North Platte or the Hastings/ Grand Island area.

Erin Cihak, Dallas, Tex.

I am considering splitting my internship between two places and hopefully one will turn into a job as I know they are short handed currently.

Karla Freudenburg, Madison, Neb.

I'm hoping my internship will lead to a job around my hometown.

Josi Arnold-Krumwiede, Longmont, Colo.

If I don't get a job at the clinic where I intern at, I will try and have another job position lined up elsewhere. While working as an intern, I will have resumes in every clinic that I can. I'm not afraid to go to as many interviews as it takes, until I get a job as a Vet Tech.

Stephanie Totten, Papillion, Neb.

I plan on working at as many clinics as I can before I am done with school. That way I will have a number of references or even some job offers for after graduation.

Sheyna Huddle, Neola, Iowa

Well I have been working at a vet clinic for the past five years back home so I'm hoping that they'll hire me full time maybe. Granted, I'm not so sure about working under my sister ;) just kidding.

Missy Miller, Elmwood, Neb.

Well after I complete my internship I hope to use the barn that I intern at as a good reference to get me another job at a barn. I'm lookin at applying to work at the BMQ ranch (Blue Mound Quarter Horses).

Dayna Cayer, Rapid River, Mich.

My plans are to get a job, get my own place. start getting some cattle and working with my horses.

Ashley Simones, Chadron, Neb.

Well if I can't find a job at the place I want to be at, then I can always go back to my hometown and work at the local vet clinic that I work at now, until I can find elsewhere.

Michael Kukas, Harrison, Neb.

My plans on getting a job after graduation are to try to get a job at the new human society in Lincoln, if not then a job at a vet clinic.

Cassie Ziemann, Lyons, Neb.

I either will go start colts for a friend of mine or go work with high-dollar horses. Depends on which I decide would be better for me.

Victoria Johnson, Palestine, Tex.

My plans are to move to a bigger city and look for a Vet Tech job while going to Vet school.

John Dunlay, Orleans, Neb.

I am going to run a sprayer for Cargill.

Allison Harm, Manley, Neb.

I am wanting to get a job helping disabled kids. I am going to do physical therapy riding for them and try to help them in any way we can.

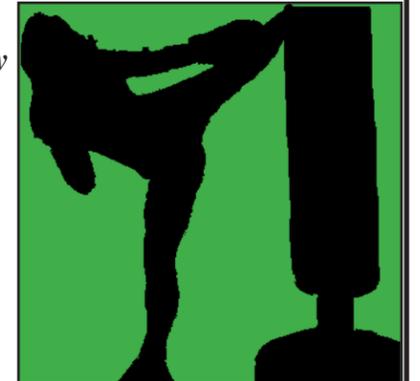
Want to participate in Aggies Speak Out? Join the Facebook group and be a part of the discussions!

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— Stephanie Totten

Tuesdays & Thursdays
6 a.m - 7:50 a.m. &
7:10 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Community Center
(Rooms vary)